

(a) a modular block having a front surface, a pair of side surfaces opposed to each other, a rear surface opposite to the front surface, a top surface and a bottom surface;

(b) a detent extending from a surface of the modular block interfitting with a recess in the gauge bar;

(c) a plurality of vertical parallel slots horizontally spaced between the opposing side surfaces of the modular block for receiving gauge elements;

(d) at least one opening extending horizontally between the opposing side surfaces of the modular block; [and]

(e) a securing pin for slidably engaging said at least one opening; and

(f) a plurality of gauge elements having a distal end and a proximal end with an opening therein, the proximal ends of said gauge elements being received in the vertical parallel slots of the modular block and the securing pin passing through the openings in the proximal ends of the plurality of gauge elements.

3 5. (Amended) A [The] modular gauge assembly [of claim 1 wherein the] for holding a plurality of modular block assemblies with gauge elements being selectively mountable in a plurality of spaced recesses of a tufting machine gauge bar, the modular block assembly comprising:

(a) a modular block having a front surface, a pair of side surfaces opposed to each other, a rear surface opposite to the front surface, a top surface and a bottom surface;

(b) a detent [extends] extending approximately from the center of the bottom surface of the modular block and interfitting with a recess in the gauge bar;

(c) a plurality of vertical parallel slots horizontally spaced between the opposing side surfaces of the modular block for receiving gauge elements;

(d) at least one opening extending horizontally between the opposing side surfaces of the modular block; and

(e) a securing pin for slidably engaging said at least one opening.

6 8. (Amended) A [The] modular gauge assembly [of claim 1] for holding a plurality of modular block assemblies with gauge elements being selectively mountable in a plurality of spaced recesses of a tufting machine gauge bar, the modular block assembly comprising:

(a) a modular block having a front surface, a pair of side surfaces opposed to each other, a rear surface opposite to the front surface, a top surface and a bottom surface;

(b) a detent extending from a surface of the modular block interfitting with a recess in the gauge bar, wherein a fastener is used to pass through the detent and secure the modular block assembly to the gauge bar;

(c) a plurality of vertical parallel slots horizontally spaced between the opposing side surfaces of the modular block for receiving gauge elements;

(d) at least one opening extending horizontally between the opposing side surfaces of the modular block; and

(e) a securing pin for slidably engaging said at least one opening.

An unmarked copy of the amended claims is attached as an exhibit to this Response and Amendment.